

lent, as it emphasizes the small details so valuable to the student and too often taken for granted by the general instructor. Treatment is complete, with chapters on hydrotherapy, X-ray, diet and saline injections. At first glance one misses the halftones of other books, but the drawings prove very satisfactory.

Altogether the book can be well accorded a place in the well-equipped medical library.

M. I. J.

Post-Mortem Examinations. By William S. Wadsworth, M. D., Coroner's Physician of Philadelphia. Octavo volume of 598 pages, with 304 original illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$6.00 net; Half Morocco, \$7.50 net.

The author, as stated in his preface, has based his book and his illustrations on his personal experience and thought, which covers a period of sixteen years and an observation of more than four thousand post-mortems. He states, at the outset, his purpose to try to encourage a more scientific and thoughtful study of the human body on the part of the post-mortem surgeons, and to stimulate higher ethical standards and a broader view, which is offered those engaged in this profession. The book as a whole is well gotten up and orderly in the arrangement of its contents. The topics are well outlined and indexed. The reading matter, from cover to cover, reveals a passion on the part of the author to remodel or revise some of the present post-mortem methods and customs. His criticisms of the technic and practices of some of the present day post-mortem surgeons is at times severe. Especially does he criticize the careless worker, also those who methodically follow a set routine, particularly the students of Virchow.

However, in spite of tendency to criticise, he, himself, occasionally drops into the straits from which he would warn others; as, for instance, his constant reminder that one should search for facts based on direct evidence rather than on notion or biased statement, seems somewhat vitiated by such statements as appear on page 67, in the section on hair, where the following appears: "The association of red hair of a deep brownish copper type with blood vessel disease is most striking. I have come to speak of this type as hemic hair. The coarse sparse hair of gastritis and the fine buff colored hair of old liver degeneration are very characteristic." Personally I have never seen or heard of such associations, but this may be due to lack of observation on my part.

It seems the book is so full of detail, that it should in a general way belong to an anatomical dissecting room, rather than for use in the average run of post-mortems where the operator's time is quite limited by the various demands, of undertakers, friends and relatives, etc., which interfere with careful lengthy dissections of any but the particular parts involved. The book also carries one afield somewhat into the realms of physics, chemistry, physiology and anatomy, probably more than is indicated under the present title.

In general, there is much that can be obtained by way of the author's personal experience and suggestion that would be helpful to anyone interested in post-mortem work. I consider his chapters on Phenomena of Death (Part 1), Mortuaries (Part 2), Examination of the Body (Part 3), and Medico-Legal Post-Mortems (Part 5), quite interesting, instructive and worth while. E. W. S.

State Society Notes

IMPORTANT NOTICE—TO CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND.

Notes are now becoming due.

Do not let your membership lapse.

Each member will be informed ten days in advance of the due date of his note.

DEFENSE AFFORDED ONLY TO MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE KEPT FULLY PAID.

Medical Defense Rules, Section 3: "Dues must be paid to the Secretary of the County Medical Society to which each member belongs prior to the end of February of each year. Any member whose dues are not paid prior to March 1st and whose name is not reported as having paid his dues by the Secretary of his County Medical Society is dropped from the list of members in good standing as of January 1st of such year, and such member is deprived of Medical Defense afforded by the State Society for the period from January 1st of such year to the date when his assessment is received by the State Society. Members whose assessments are not received on or before February 15th of each year will be notified by letter from the Secretary of the State Society of such fact."

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California, the question was raised as to what stand the insurance companies had taken on the matter of service in the Medical Section of the Officers' Reserve Corps in the present war. Dr. Pope, State Secretary, is investigating the matter of insurance rates, recent rulings, if any, and what provisions are made for physicians in the present crisis. A resumé of this inquiry will be furnished in the near future.

NOTICE.

Information has come in the possession of the Police Department of San Francisco to the effect that a middle-aged German woman has been going the rounds of the doctors' offices offering for sale a mouthpiece attachment for the telephone, also a memorandum pad to attach to the telephone, both of which are said to be laden with disease germs of some description. Should any physician come in contact with this woman, he should detain her on some pretext and notify the police.